(c) whether the oil companies are likely to respond to the Centre's SOS for special dividends, by dipping into their reserve, which are meant for investments only?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Upstream Oil PSUs namely ONGC, OIL & GAIL have earned profits while Oil Marketing Companies, such as IOCL, IBP, HPCL & BPCL have suffered losses during the 1st quarter of 2005-06. The dividend for 2005-06 would depend on the financial performance of these companies for the full year.

(b) While oil companies continue to hope to pay dividends, if circumstances were to compel them to skip paying dividends, this would, of course, adversely affect the non-tax revenue of the Union Government.

(c) The Centre has issued no SOS for special dividends.

Beautification of temples in Uttar Pradesh

†2928. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded proposals/estimates to Central Government for beautification of Saifai pond and renovation of Kalivahan temple in district Etawah, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 102.49 lakhs during 2003-04 for beautification of Pucca Talab at Etawah in Uttar Pradesh. An amount of Rs. 46.90 lakhs also been sanctioned during 2005-06 for beautification of Kalivahan temple at Etawah in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.